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SHORT FORMS OF DEVOTION,

For the Use more especially of FAMILIES, Private Persons, and the

CHARITY-SCHOOL

Lately set up in the Parish of

NORTHWOLDE, IN NORFOLK.

By Sam. Knight, D.D.

Pour out thy fury upon them that know thee not, and upon the families that call not upon thy name. Jer. 10. 25.

1706.

Dear Neighbours.

LET me beg of you, to put in practiſe, that long neglected duty of Family-Religion: I have told you often from the Pulpit, and now from the Preſs, that Religion will continue at a very low ebb, as long as Men are deficient in this important point of their duty. I hope ſince you have been hitherto ſo forward in encouraging my Labours, in ſending your Children and Servants, every Lords-Day, to be Catechiſed and have Contributed ſo generouſly towards the Education of Poor Children, (the firſt thing of this nature in all the Neighbourhood) ſo I hope you will not deny me this one Requeſt more, of reſolving with Joſhua, *that you and your houſes will ſerve the Lord, which will be highly acceptable to God, farther encouraging to me, and derive a Bleſſing upon you and yours; which ſhall be the hearty wiſh and prayers of,*

July 24.
1706.

Yours to the utmoſt of his Power

S. K.

Morning Prayer.

O Almighty and moſt merciful Lord God, we thy moſt ſinful Creatures do caſt our ſelves at the footſtool of thy Grace, humbly acknowledging that we have moſt juſtly deſerv'd to be utterly abhorred and forſaken by Thee: for in Sin were we conceived and brought forth in Iniquity; and to that our original Corruption, we have added a continued courſe of Sin and Rebellion againſt Thee; daily committing thoſe things which Thou forbiddeſt, and leaving undone the things which Thou commandeſt us: We have in thought, word and deed, broken all thy holy Laws; nay, we have deſpiſed that

Goodneſs of thine, which ſhould lead us to Repentance; hardning our hearts againſt all thoſe means which thou haſt us'd for our amendment. And now (O Lord) what can we expect from thee, but thy Wrath and our juſt Condemnation? But (O Lord) there is Mercy with thee, that thou may'ſt be feared; O fit us for that Mercy, by giving us a hearty and unfeigned ſorrow for all our Sins; And Thou, according to thy Goodneſs, turn away thy Wrath and Anger from us; look upon us in thy bleſſed Son our Savior Jeſus Chriſt, and for the Merits of his Sufferings pardon all our Sins; And we beſeech thee by thy Grace ſo to renew and purify our hearts, that we may become new Creatures; utterly forſaking our former Sins, and living in a conſtant and entire Obedience to all thy holy Commandments; that behaving our ſelves like good and faithful Servants, we may at laſt be received into the joy of our

our Lord. To this end we beſeech thee, O merciful God to protect and defend us this Day from all Evil: Grant that we may not run into any kind of Sin, nor fall into any Danger, but that all our thoughts, words and works may tend to thy Glory, the Good of others, and our own Salvation.

With us be gracious to all we are bound to pray for: Bleſs thoſe that are in Authority over us: Comfort all that are in Affliction, whether of Mind, Body, or Eſtate: Be merciful to all our Friends and Relations; and accept of our Praiſes for all thy Mercies to us, whether they relate to this Life, or to that which is to come; beſeeching thee that we may ſo conſider thy Mercies to us, as to engage us to live ſuitable to them, and that we may praiſe Thee, not only with our Lips, but with our Lives, by giving up ourſelves to thy Service all the reſt of our days, for Jeſus Chriſt his ſake;

in whoſe holy Words we conclude theſe our imperfect Prayers, ſaying,

Our Father which art in Heaven; Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our treſpaſſes, as we forgive them that treſpaſs againſt us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

Evening

Evening Prayer.

MOst great and glorious Lord God, we thy poor ſinful and miſerable Creatures do with all ſorrow and ſhame acknowledge and confeſs, that we have broken all thy righteous Laws: The good which we ſhould have done, we have omitted; and the evil which we ſhould not have done, we have committed: We have not been affrighted by thy Judgments, nor allured by thy Mercies from ſinning againſt thee: We have not regarded the checks of our own Conſciences, nor hearkened to the motions of thy holy Spirit; but we have wilfully and with much preſumption offended againſt thee throughout the

whole courſe of our Lives: Yea, this Day paſt we have much added to the number of our former Provocations; and ſhould'ſt thou judge us but for the faults of this one Day, thou wouldſt find matter enough therein, to condemn us to Eternal Torments; what then ſhall we ſay, O Lord, to the Sins of our whole Lives? we can only appeal from thy Juſtice to thy Mercy, beſeeching thee (O thou Father of Mercies) for thy Son and our only Savior Jeſus Chriſt's ſake, to pardon all our Sins, to waſh them in his Blood, to nail them to his Croſs, to bury them in his Grave, that they may never riſe to ſhame us in this Life, or to condemn us in the World to come.

Neither do we pray, only to be freed from our Sins paſt; but we moſt earneſtly entreat thee, O gracious God, to free us from the power of Sin for the time to come, that we may never more return to folly; Give us the Graces of thy holy Spirit, that we may

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ſuch as thou wouldſt have us to be; make us always to remember our latter end, and ſo to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto Wiſdom.

And we beſeech Thee to defend us from the Perils of this Night; Let no evil Spirit, or evil Man have power to hurt us: Refreſh us with moderate Sleep, and raiſe us up the enſuing Morning, enabled and better reſolv'd to do thee ſervice.

With us be merciful to all we are bound to pray for: Bleſs this ſinful Land of our Nativity; turn us every one from our evil way, and turn thy diſpleaſure from us: Prevent the Judgments we fear; remove thoſe we feel. In Mercy look upon our Governors; teach them to rule to thy Glory, and the good of thy People. Give thy Grace and Bleſſing to all our Friends and Relations; and, as Chriſt hath commanded us, we pray even for our Enemies: And we beſeech thee (O

merciful Father) to comfort and relieve all thoſe who are afflicted in Mind, Body, or Eſtate.

Laſtly, We deſire to offer up this our *Evening Sacrifice* of Praiſe and Thankſgiving for all thy Mercies; for our Creation, Food, Raiment, Health, Friends, and for the Preſervation of us all our Lives hitherto: but above all for thy Spiritual Mercies in ſending thy Son to die for us, thy Word to direct us, thy Spirit to guide us, and thy Grace to enable and ſtrengthen us; deſiring we may ſo improve under all thy Mercies, that we may live to thy Glory, and die in thy Favour, and be received into thy Heavenly Kingdom. All which we beg for the alone Merits of Jeſus Chriſt; In whoſe Words we conclude our imperfect Prayers, ſaying as He hath taught us in his holy Goſpel,

Our Father, &c.

A Morn-

A morning Prayer for a private Person.

MOst gracious God, I acknowledge my Sin, and my iniquity is ever before me; I am less then the least of thy Mercies, and deserve the greatest of thy Judgments; I am unworthy to live, and unfit to die: But there is Mercy with thee, that thou mayest be feared, and thy Compassions fail not. Forgive me all that is past, assist me in doing better for the future; that as Sin hath abounded, so Grace may much more abound: give me all things necessary to Life, and Godliness, and so bless and sanctifie unto me, the good things of this Life, that they may prove furtherances to me in the way to a better; be mindful of all I am bound to pray for; Let them all experience thy loving kindness, according to their particular

lar circumſtances. Accept of my unfeigned thanks for all thy Mercies, thoſe of the laſt-night in particular; continue thy Favor and Protection to me this Day, keep me from all evil, eſpecially from the evil of Sin, preſerve me through faith unto Salvation; that ſo I maylive in thy fear, and die in thy favour, for Chriſt his ſake, in whoſe holy Name, I conclude my imperfect Prayers, ſaying.

Our Father which art in Heaven; Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our treſpaſſes, as we forgive them that treſpaſs againſt us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

An

An Evening Prayer for a private Perſon.

EVerliving God, who art more ready to hear then I to pray, and art wont to give more then either I deſire or deſerve; paſs by whatever thou haſt ſeen amiſs in me; receive me graciouſly, and love me freely; let not the Sins of this day be added to my former account; and for the future, give me firmly to reſolve, ſpeedily to begin, and continually to perſevere, in doing and ſuffering thy Will; teach me ſo to number my daies, that I may apply my heart unto Wiſdom, that I may live Righteouſly, Soberly, and Godly in this preſent World. To this end give me Strength to reſiſt Temptation, Patience to endure Afflictions, and Conſtancy to perſevere unto the End in thy truth, guide me by thy Counſel, till thou ſhalt bring me to thy Kingdom and Glory. Bleſs

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all that are in Authority over us, Magiſtrates and Miniſters; be mindful of all my Friends, Kindred and Acquaintance, the whole Church, and every afflicted Member of it; and do more abundantly for me and them, than I can ask, or think, for Chriſt his ſake; In whoſe holy Name I farther ſay.

Our Father, &c.

At Entrance into Church.

GRant, O Lord, that I may ſeriouſly conſider the great concern, in which I am about engaging, that ſo my Prayers may be acceptable to thee; and the hearing thy Word, may have its due effect upon my Soul, for Chriſt Jeſus ſake, *Amen.*

A ſhort Form to be uſed in the Charity-School.

O God, who out of the Mouths of Babes and Sucklings haſt ordained

dained ſtrength, grant that we may grow daily in Grace, and in the knowledge of Chriſt, and that we may know thee; the only true God, and Jeſus Chriſt, whom thou haſt ſent, that our knowledge may influence our practiſe, ſo that we may remember Thee, our Creator in the days of our youth, and may paſs through this World with Conſciences, void of offence, both towards God and Men. Bleſſed be thy Name, for the advantages thou haſt put into our hands, ſo that none of us need periſh for lack of knowledge; ſince thou haſt raiſed us up Benefactors, by whoſe Charity we are inſtructed in our moſt Holy Faith. Grant that ſuch a price being put into our hands, we may have hearts to uſe it, to thy Honour, and our own Good, for Chriſt his ſake, *Amen.*

Grace before Meat,

GOOD Lord, pardon and forgive us all our Sins, which make us unworthy of thy Mercies; bless these thy Creatures to the use of our Bodies, bless our Bodies to the use of our Souls, and bless both our Bodies and our Souls to thy Service, for Christ his sake, *Amen.*

Grace after Meat.

THOU, O Lord, who hast created us by thy Power, preserved us by thy Providence, redeemed us by thy Blood, and at this time fed us by thy Good Creatures, be blessed and praised both now and evermore. *Amen.*

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